

Zachary Taylor House,
Blankenbaker Lane,
St. Matthews, Kentucky

Jefferson County

HABS No. KY-69

HABS
KY.

56-SAMA

1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

~~WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA~~
District of Kentucky

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
CENTRAL UNIT—ST. LOUIS

Historic American Buildings Survey
E. T. Hutchings, District Officer
1708 Heyburn Building, Louisville, Ky.

Springfield (Zachary Taylor House)
5608 Apache Road
St. Matthews
Jefferson County
Kentucky

HABS No. KY-69

HABS
KY,

56-SAMA,
1-

Addendum to:

Zachary Taylor House
Blankenbaker Lane
St. Matthews
Jefferson County
Kentucky
(as recorded in 1940)

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Architectural and Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ADDENDUM TO

SPRINGFIELD
(Zachary Taylor House)

HABS No. KY-69

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56-SAMA,
1-

Location: 5608 Apache Road, St. Matthews, Jefferson County, Kentucky.
USGS Jeffersonville, Indiana-Kentucky Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 16/618330/4237440.

Present Owner: Hugh S. Haynie.

Present Occupant: Haynie Family.

Present Use: Dwelling.

Significance: One of the oldest residences in Jefferson County, Springfield served as the childhood home of Zachary Taylor. The twenty-three years spent by Taylor at Springfield were to be the longest he lived at any one place.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Circa 1794-1795. Following purchase of the property in 1792 by Richard Taylor in Virginia, the move to Kentucky was made and the original portion of the house constructed.
2. Architect: Not known.
3. Original and subsequent owners: Springfield is built on lot 41 of block 1504 in Jefferson County, Kentucky. Block 1504 encompasses most of what was once part of the original Taylor farm. The following references tracing the title of this lot are found in the Jefferson County, Kentucky Deed Books:

1792 Deed, March 12, 1792, original deed retained in Jefferson County Archivist's Office, Room 601, Jefferson County Courthouse, Louisville, Kentucky. Ambrose Madison, Abraham Happonstall, Hancock Lee, and Zachary Taylor sold 360 acres to Richard Taylor for ten pounds.

1832 Deed, April 14, 1832, recorded in Deed Book 50, page 2. Zachary Taylor and Margaret Taylor, Elizabeth Taylor, John S. Allison and Emily Taylor Allison, Joseph P. Taylor and Evelina Taylor, and French S. Gray and Sarah B. Taylor Gray, heirs of Richard Taylor, sold 450 acres to Hancock Taylor, fellow heir, for \$13,500.

- 1841 Will, April 5, 1841, recorded in Will Book 3, page 250.
Will of Hancock Taylor.
- 1866 Deed, January 10, 1866, recorded in Deed Book 128, page 533. Robert H. Taylor, son of Hancock Taylor, sold 155 acres to Annah (sic) H. Taylor, widow of Hancock Taylor, for \$3,000.
- 1867 Deed, May 10, 1867, recorded in Deed Book 134, page 395. Annah (sic) H. Taylor sold 155 acres to Robert H. Taylor for \$3,000.
- 1867 Deed, October 8, 1867, recorded in Deed Book 134, page 477. Hannah H. Taylor and Robert H. Taylor sold the farm to George McCurdy for \$14,933.33.
- 1884 Will, October 13, 1884, recorded in Will Book 12, page 334. George McCurdy devised Springfield to Matthew Brady.
- 1913 Deed, November 15, 1913, recorded in Deed Book 792, page 611. Anna H. Brady, widow of Matthew Brady, deceased August 20, 1913, conveyed the farm to her sons, John A. Brady, George Brady, and James A. Brady.
- 1913 Deed, November 17, 1913, recorded in Deed Book 795, page 422. George Brady and Jennie Brady and James J. Brady and Anna Brady conveyed two-thirds interest in Springfield to June Brady and John A. Brady.
- 1926 Deed, November 3, 1926, recorded in Deed Book 1245, page 448. June Brady and John A. Brady sold Springfield to Emily A. Overman.
- 1935 Deed, March 14, 1935, recorded in Deed Book 1571, page 79. Emily A. Overman sold Springfield to Emanuel Levi.
- 1937 Deed, August 30, 1938, recorded in Deed Book 1646, page 420. Emanuel Levi and Dorothy Levi sold Springfield to Harry A. Volz and Elizabeth B. Volz.
- 1941 Deed, September 3, 1941, recorded in Deed Book 1798, page 196. Elizabeth B. Volz, widow, sold Springfield to Dinwiddie Lampton, Jr. and Nancy H. Lampton.
- 1955 Deed, November 30, 1955, recorded in Deed Book 3355, page 252. Dinwiddie Lampton, Jr. and Nancy H. Lampton sold Springfield to Springfield, Inc.

- 1957 Deed, November 13, 1957, recorded in Deed Book 3478, page 38. Springfield, Inc. sold Springfield, the house and lot, to W. Carleton Simmons and Doris K. Simmons.
- 1964 Deed, August 20, 1964, recorded in Deed Book 3912, page 494. W. Carleton Simmons and Doris K. Simmons sold the lot to Paul M. Davis and Henrietta J. Davis for \$42,500.
- 1973 Deed, November 15, 1973, recorded in Deed Book 4682, page 192. Henrietta J. Davis, widow, sold the lot to Hugh S. Haynie for \$118,500.
4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: Virtually all materials and labor came from local sources on the farm. Exceptions were the eight locks in the house which were made by Carpenter and Co. of England and the glass, which was also imported from England.
5. Alterations and additions:
- 1830s Following acquisition of the house in 1832 by Hancock Taylor, a large brick wing was added.
- c.1870 George McCurdy installed a bracketed tin roof on the house with two-story wooden verandas on both sides of the house.
- 1928 Frederic L. Morgan, Louisville architect, "improved" Springfield by adding plumbing, heating, wiring, two upstairs bathrooms, reversing the stairway, and replacing of many of the interior details (probably in the 1830s wing), thought to be too "heavy" for the period of the house. He also removed the walnut fireplace and paneling from the kitchen to the dining room.
- 1958 W. Carleton Simmons relandscaped the grounds by adding terraces, lawns, and 500 boxwood trees over a two-year period. He also "restored" the original walnut paneling and doors of the house by stripping off all paint.
- 1966 Mr. and Mrs. Paul Davis removed the front and side porches and, under the direction of Frederic L. Morgan, replaced what was probably an original stoop and porch roof over the front door. The front door was altered for ease in shutting. Five of the twelve fireplaces were sealed and a built-in stove was added to the kitchen.
- 1974 Following the tornado in April of 1974 major repairs are being undertaken under the direction of the architectural firm of Jasper Ward, of Louisville. Included in the repairs are major structural restoration of the walls and

floors, which have separated. Also, the roof, which was entirely demolished, is being replaced with a new roof designed after prototypes in Williamsburg, Virginia.

- B. Historical Context: Zachary Taylor, famed Indian fighter and later President of the United States, spent his childhood and adolescence at Springfield. Five of his six children (one of whom was the first wife of Jefferson Davis) were born in the house. Always on the move, Taylor lived a total of twenty-three years at Springfield, the longest he spent in any one place.

Following his death in 1850 after just one year in office, he was buried on the grounds in the family cemetery, which is now the Zachary Taylor National Cemetery. At present the house is only one of two houses closely associated with U.S. Presidents not in public hands.

PART III. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

General description:

The large part of the house with a main entrance gives the impression that it was the first to be built. It is actually a later addition which was built to adjoin to the original, smaller circa 1794-95 structure in the 1830s. The exact location of the original main doorway cannot be ascertained.

A five-step stoop provides entrance to the southeast front door. The door is set back a few feet from the stoop and surrounding it is a paneled enframingent. A transom is above it. A water table and a brick stringcourse are found only in the large addition. The windows throughout the house are twelve-over-twelve double-hung sash and are protected with louvered shutters. At either end wall of the house are the two brick interior chimneys.

A two-story roofed porch occupies the rear wall of the large brick addition. A plain railing surrounds the porch, and between it are the columns which support the second floor and the roof.

PART III SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- A. Early Views: Old view of house in The New York Daily Graphic, January 19, 1875, showing porches and bracketed tin roof.

B. Bibliography:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

Deed Books located in the Clerk's Office, Jefferson County Courthouse, Louisville, Kentucky.

Will Books located in the Probate Office, Jefferson County Courthouse, Louisville, Kentucky.

2. Secondary and published sources:

Newspaper clippings:

"The New York Daily Graphic," January 19, 1875.

"1792 Zachary Taylor Deed To Beargrass Land Found," Louisville Times, February 7, 1947.

"Taylor's Home Put Up for Sale," Courier-Journal, October 2, 1956.

"Zachary Taylor Home Sold for \$42,500," Courier-Journal, December 1, 1957.

"Apache Road Passes Indian Fighter's Old Home," by Carol Sutton, Courier-Journal, January 24, 1960.

"Zachary Taylor's Home Is Brought Up to Its Times," Louisville Times, April 16, 1966.

"Springfield, the Home, not the Town," Courier-Journal, November 23, 1969.

"Springfield Awaits Visitors," by Joan Kay, Courier-Journal, November 30, 1969.

"Congress Asked to Make Taylor Home a U.S. Site," Courier-Journal, October 14, 1971.

"Another Step is Taken to Save Taylor Home," Courier-Journal, November 7, 1971.

"Zachary," Courier-Journal, November 24, 1971.

"Springfield," by Keith Runyon, Courier-Journal, July 9, 1972.

"Zachary Taylor Mansion May Be Up For Sale Soon," by John Finley, Courier-Journal, October 6, 1973.

"Zachary Taylor Home Will Be Placed on Sale," by John Finley, Courier-Journal, October 18, 1973.

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National Park Service
August 1974
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Historic American Buildings Survey
Spring 1981

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

The project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) in cooperation with the Preservation Alliance of Louisville and Jefferson County, Inc. Under the direction of John Poppeliers, chief of HABS, the project was completed during the summer of 1974 at the HABS Field Office in Louisville by Prof. John Haggard, (Syracuse University), Project Supervisor; David Arbogast (Columbia University), Project Historian; Mary Oehrlein, Project Foreman; Bayer Lee (City College of New York), Architect; and Mary M. Herd (University of Tennessee) and Charles Raith (University of Cincinnati), student assistant architects. Susan McCown, a HABS staff historian in the Washington, D.C. office, edited the written descriptive data in the spring of 1981, for transmittal to the Library of Congress. HABS staff photographer Jack E. Boucher took the photographs of the structures in 1979.

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